

## Music Student Service League and Macy's Fundraiser raises \$7K for Rett syndrome

Submitted by Bianca Tung



Girls from Miramonte High School came to the event to support the cause. Photos provided

The Music Student Service League (MSSL) partnered with Macy's of Walnut Creek April 28 and hosted the first annual fashion show in support of the Katie Nues Foundation. MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to spread happiness through music, and provide support to those in need. The Katie Nues Foundation provides funding for Katie's Clinic at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, which is one of the few places in the United States that specializes in the diagnosis and comprehensive care for girls and young women with Rett syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that affects young girls' brain development, making it challenging to walk, speak and use their hands as they mature into adulthood. There are approximately 1,000 cases in the United States per year.

The fundraiser was a huge success, with over 120 members of the community showing up to support this tremendous cause at the downtown Macy's store. Paige Nues, the founder of the Katie Nues' Foundation, delivered a heartfelt message to the MSSL organization, its friends and Macy's for supporting this event.

Nues' daughter, Katie, was born in 2002 and was diagnosed with Rett syndrome in 2003. As the Nues family endured this challenging experience, Nues realized that patients and families suffering from Rett syndrome had a hard time finding support systems. In 2004, Katie's Clinic began to provide such support for these families on the West Coast.

The foundation's charter is to maximize the support for Rett syndrome patients and their families with the funding they receive. Also in attendance were the Blanco and Corpus family. Emily Blanco and Samantha Corpus are two courageous, strong ladies who suffer from Rett syndrome.

In speaking with Nues, she shared her praise and appreciation for this strong effort by MSSL and the major endorsement by Macy's, which generously donated \$7,000 to the Katie Nues Foundation.

Without significant funding or resources from the government, it makes these types of fundraisers that much more important in providing critical support for those suffering from this syndrome.



MSSL accepts the \$7,000 check from Macy's. Pictured: Serena Wang, MSSL president, Bianca Tung, secretary, Michelle Chen, vice president, and Max Chen, historian.

## National Charity League hosts tea at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Audrey Allen

The members of the 2021 class of the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League hosted a tea at the Moraga Royale Assisted Living facility March 25.

The theme of the tea was centered around the floral paintings of Claude Monet. On each table were small floral paintings, and centerpieces made by the girls in the chapter. "The NCL-sponsored tea was inspired by Monet artwork," said Trudy Deutz, a patroness of the 2021 class and coordinator of the event. "The NCL members brought in mini hand-painted reproductions of Monet artwork for the tables, two large screens with a famous Monet bridge painting that the residents walked through to enter the dining room, along with favors and flower centerpieces that all reflected the colors and themes

of the artwork." The food served varied from small sandwiches, fruit kabobs, macaroons, cookies, madeleines, and more.

The girls spent time talking with the residents, serving them food, and entertaining. They sang a few songs, and held a raffle for the residents to win the flower centerpieces. "My favorite part about the tea was getting to talk to the seniors and learning about their lives when they were younger," said Helena Bardsley, a member of the 2021 NCL class.

"A highlight of the afternoon was the time the residents and the young ladies from NCL spent together. All the Moraga Royale residents were interested in learning more about their visitors and sharing stories about their lives," Deutz said.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

## LLC Bookmark Contest winners announced

Submitted by Kay Pekrul



The winners, front row, from left: Lily Harris, second grade, Burton Valley; Oliver Cheng, kindergarten, Springhill; Matt Roberts, first grade, Lafayette E.; Grace Wolpert, fourth grade, Lafayette; Jonah Mateo, third grade, St. Perpetua; second row: Chloe Quintella, seventh grade, Stanley Middle School, Madeline Venturini, Sofia Bartos, (Hall of Fame), sixth grade, Stanley; Zarah Thomas, sixth grade, Stanley; K. Yasumura, (Hall of Fame), seventh grade, Saklan School, Katrina Ortman, eighth grade, Stanley. Photo provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Bookmark Contest attracted about 500 entries this year.

The winners of each grade level participated in the Bookmark Contest Award Ceremony. Each young artist received a \$25 gift certificate for Bel & Bunnas, gift certificates

worth \$10 for our Friends Corner Book Shop and in addition a complimentary framing of the winning bookmarks from Anthony Ruiz of FastFrame. All the winning bookmarks can be viewed in the Lafayette Library and in the Friends Corner Book Shop.

## St. Perpetua donates over 500 lbs. of food to Monument Crisis Center

Submitted by Heather Travale



Photo provided

A food drive led by the seventh-grade class at St. Perpetua in Lafayette resulted in collecting 502 pounds of high-protein food – peanut butter, canned meats, canned seafood, canned beans, bagged beans – which was donated to the Monument Crisis Center on March 28. The students created posters to advertise the event at school, and went into each classroom to talk about the food drive and the Monument Crisis Center. Food was collected over a two-week period.

On the day of the event, students gathered and counted all the food (the fourth-grade class collected the most number of items), and loaded it all into two SUVs. The actual trip to deliver and sort the food occurred af-

ter school hours. Once at the Crisis center, the students unloaded all of the heavy boxes of food, and while Monument Crisis Center employees inspected and weighed the food, the students met with an MCC representative and learned all about the many services the shelter provides, such as providing free food to needy families and senior citizens, English as a Second Language classes, afterschool tutoring for kids, computer lessons for all ages, resume creation help, yoga and tai chi classes for senior citizens, and more.

The students then went into the back pantry area, which is a small warehouse, and sorted all of the food they had donated.

## In Memory

### Margaret Dalton

Feb 4, 1945 - Mar 14, 2018



Margaret Dalton, a delightful, artistically gifted, and beloved teacher for nearly 40 years passed away peacefully last month in the company of loving friends.

She and her sister Geraldine grew up in Durham, California, a rural community outside Chico, on the 2,000-acre ranch of her father, Vernon Fish. Margaret spent her teen years in Chico, graduating from high school in 1962.

After two years at Colorado Women's College in Denver, she transferred to San Francisco State, where she earned her BA and teaching credential in 1967, and

began what would be a lifelong career guiding, nurturing and inspiring small children.

Ms. Dalton, who was known as Miss Margaret to thousands of youngsters and parents, began in the Head Start program at a preschool in an underserved West Oakland neighborhood. After three years she moved to Glorietta School in Orinda, where she taught kindergarten for nine years. In 1979 she began her tenure at the White Pony and Meher Schools, teaching third grade, kindergarten and – toward the end of her career – the youngest children in the preschool until her retirement in 2017. For several years before retirement, she chose not to collect a salary, donating her time instead.

According to those that worked with her, she brought her wonderful artistic sensibilities into her work with little ones, cultivating their creativity by patiently teaching them to express themselves through the medium of paint. She was an inspiration to younger teachers, who marveled at her ability to prepare art projects with love, beauty and respect. Her friends and students knew that beneath her quiet exterior was a lively, elfin, playful quality that endeared her to children and adults alike.

Her former principal, Ellen Evans said, "Margaret's devotion to her students was exemplary, as were her standards for their care. Her preschool art table was a place of joy and inspiration. She is missed."

A private service was held recently with close friends in attendance.